

President's Message to Campus

Office of the President
February 2, 2018

Festival of the Arts

As we enter the month of February, the excitement of the [Festival of the Arts](#) begins in Big Rapids. On Sunday, the Grand Rapids Symphony will be performing an all Mozart program inside G. Mennen Williams Auditorium at 4 p.m. If you have heard the Symphony, you know what a wonderful opportunity this is. If you have never heard the Symphony perform, I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to hear them for free. A sampling of other Festival of the Arts events next week include:

- *Wood Frogs and Vernal Ponds*, with local photographer Stephen Ross – Monday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m., IRC Room 120
- *Death by Chocolate Murder Mystery Theatre and Dessert Experience*, directed by Kristy Motz and Gordon Mallett – Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 7 p.m., Immanuel Lutheran Church, 726 Fuller Avenue
- *Poetry Open Mic Night*, presented by FSU Drawn to Art Organization and English Society – Thursday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m., Cranker's Restaurant & Brewery, 213 S. State St.
- *The Vagina Monologues*, presented by the FSU Social Work Association – Thursday, Feb. 8, at 7 p.m., G. Mennen Williams Auditorium

Good News

It is a pleasure to share some of your remarkable recent accomplishments. This month's Good News reminds us of the excellence of our faculty, staff and students, and that we have much to be proud of at Ferris State University. Listed below is just a small sampling of your many contributions to your profession, our campuses and our communities. Please take a few minutes to read this list and the entire list on the [Good News webpage](#).

- Deirdre Fagan published her poem "Have Love" in the *Muddy River Poetry Review*, "The kindness of strangers" in *Amaryllis* and "While your husband is still able to stand" in *Poetry Breakfast*, and presented "Without Blinking: A Sampling of Poems," at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference and co-presented with Carrie Weis "The Artist in the Classroom: How Visual Art Stimulates the Writer and Activist Within" at the Midwest Modern Language Association Conference.
- The MBA program is ranked 83rd 'Best Online MBA Programs' in the 2017 US News Rankings, up from 115th in 2016.
- CIS student James Yi achieved 1st Place - Industry Champion for the 2017 'The Business Strategy Game,' a competition-based global strategy simulation.
- Arrick Jackson served on a panel discussion "If They Could See Us Now" for Alma College's MLK Celebration event.
- Nancy Hogan published "Workplace demands and resources as antecedents of jail officer perceived danger at work" in the *Journal of Crime and Justice* with co-authors Eric Lambert, Jill Gordon and Eugene Paoline III.
- The Law Enforcement Academy hosted a student-organized recruitment open house, with 121 high school students from vocational education schools attending.

- David Alban presented "Developing and Sustaining Leadership Teams" at the Western Educational Leadership Conference.
- Debbie Dawson, Leigha Compson and three female CET students traveled to Surline Middle School in West Branch to lead nearly 200 seventh graders through STEM activities.
- Construction Management senior Julia Tisdale is one of 36 women from across the nation to attend the Kiewit Women's Construction Leadership Seminar in Colorado.
- Anuli Njoku received the inaugural 2018 Drexel University School of Public Health Distinguished Alumni Award.
- Matthew Adeyanju was reappointed to the Michigan Commission on Services to the Aging.
- Fashion Studies students collaborated with Crowned Free, a women's direct sales company that employs survivors of human trafficking, and designed umbrella-themed skirts showcased at Crowned Free's 2018 Spring Fashion Show.
- MFA students Angelica Hay, Anna Schierbeek and Katie Toepp were selected for inclusion in the National Wet Paint MFA Biennial 2018 exhibition. Thirty-eight works were chosen for inclusion out of 250 submissions.
- Photography student Ryan Kukalis had his photo series "Shaken Loose," which depicts southwestern Florida in the aftermath of hurricane Irma, featured on the website of independent new photographic art publisher Aint – Bad.
- Art Education student Grace Springsteen will receive the National Preservice Art Educator Award from the National Art Education Association in March 2018.
- Cindy Todd had her piece "Bahama Ocean" chosen for inclusion in the National Art Education Association Juried Exhibition in Alexandria, Virginia.
- Miranda Krajniak ('06, BFA Drawing), UICA executive director, was named one of Grand Rapids Business Journal's 50 Most Influential Women in West Michigan.
- UICA launched a refreshed version of its website, www.uica.org. This work, led by Kristen Taylor, was initiated and directed by a team of volunteers from Weekend for Good, a collaborative project by GR Give Camp and AIGA West Michigan.
- Kim Hancock presented "Bariatrics: It's More Than Just Weight Loss!" at the American Society of Health Systems Pharmacists mid-year clinical meeting.
- Eric Nybo and his students began their research project entitled "A Novel Metabolic Engineering Platform for Production of Anthracyclines."
- A cohort of 22 students have begun the Doctorate in Community College Leadership at Lone Star College in Houston, Texas.
- Dejah Rubel published a report in the *NASIG Newsletter* on a webinar titled "How Accessible Is Our Collection? Performing an e-Resources Accessibility Review."
- Jamie Brady is again authoring and proctoring the New Jersey State Licensing examinations for Opticians for 2018.
- Alison Jenerou and Bruce Morgan published "A Vision Training Program's Impact on Ice Hockey Performance" in the January issue of *Insight the Journal of the American Society of Ophthalmic Registered Nurses*.
- The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning facilitated professional development sessions for visiting faculty from Changsha Social Work College, China.
- Peter Bradley developed a workshop for the National Collegiate Honors Conference titled "Building a Professional Development Social Network for the NCHC" and was a panelist on "Honors Faculty Selection, Engagement and Compensation Types" and "Year One: Drinking Through a Firehose," and collaborated with Steve Cox on the publication of part one "Social Media Toolkit" for the Professional Development Committee on the NCHC website.

- Elizabeth Burbatt presented “No Money, No Time: Planning in College” for the ASC Speaker Series.
- Parking is now included in room rates for returning students starting fall 2018.
- The Snack Shack remodel in the University Center is complete and open, now offering convenience store items.
- Sixty-eight student-athletes achieved GLIAC All-Academic & All-Academic Excellence Team honors for the 2017 fall athletics campaign.
- The men's tennis squad was recently ranked among the top teams in both the region and the country heading into the year by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.
- The Disbursements staff had electronic W-2s available for 5,516 employees by January 10.
- As a result of the strong partnership between College of Engineering Technology faculty and Physical Plant staff, the Swan Annex renovation and addition is on schedule and within budget. Two major milestone dates have been met on time, opening the second floor in October 2017 and the new addition for classes at the start of the spring semester.
- Custodial staff, in conjunction with the Sustainability Committee, put approximately 70 new blue mixed content recycling containers across campus.
- A new dashboard is available in the [Cherwell Portal](#) to look at IT ticket counts by division, branch, department and for all students.
- The Prakken building's wireless infrastructure was upgraded and includes optimization of the new access points for improved WiFi coverage.
- Jennifer Stevens was highlighted in the recent North American Association of Commencement Offices publication “The Mace.”
- The new visit experience program, Crimson & Gold, officially kicked off in January with 80 admitted students paired with 75 student hosts representing approximately 40 different majors on campus.
- Birkam Health Center successfully launched ONLINE SCHEDULING through the new and improved HEALTHY DOG Student Health Portal.
- The Student Leadership and Activities Advisory Council approved three new Registered Student Organizations: Flutter (Suicide Prevention), German Language, and Culture Club, and the reactivation of the Lutheran Student Fellowship.
- Over 1,200 students participated in the 3rd annual University Center Anniversary Party where they enjoyed indoor roller skating, virtual reality games, karaoke, living statues, creating street signs, a balloon artist and a Miracle Mirror photo booth. The event was a collaboration between University Center, CLACS, Dining Services, Entertainment Unlimited, Student Government and Alpha Psi Omega.
- Michele Albright and the CLACS Volunteer Center were recognized by the Big Rapids Downtown Business Association as the 2017 Volunteer of the Year.
- Entertainment Unlimited, CLACS, the Homecoming Committee, the Family and Friends Committee, OMSS and the Leadership Week committee raised \$3,406 for the United Way.
- The Ambassador Program was launched on January 25 to increase outreach efforts during the Now and Always comprehensive campaign. Ambassadors will share messaging about the opportunities available for student support. Faculty, staff and students are among the Ambassador Program volunteers. Contact Paul Leek at ext. 3664 or PaulLeek@ferris.edu for more details.
- Students in the Telephone Outreach Program raised \$47,598 through 558 gifts, fulfilled, during the fall semester.

- Steelcase Inc. is one of 12 organizations sponsoring [Growing Opportunity: A Partner Celebration](#). The event will be held in Grand Rapids on May 16, 2018, and honor the collaboration between Ferris and Grand Rapids Public Schools.
- With grant support from the City of Grand Rapids for the Latino Entrepreneurship Initiative (Emprende), the Latino Business and Economic Development Center trained 26 aspiring entrepreneurs and launched or expanded 17 small businesses.
- The Latino Business and Economic Development Center was awarded \$150,000 from The Wege Foundation to support its work over three years.
- Marketing provided video and other promotional content support for Online MBA program recruitment in partnership with the College of Business.
- With support from Peak Positions, Marketing completed a Google AdWords campaign integrated with its external marketing campaign and custom resources at www.ferris.edu/be.
- Videos from the [Ferris State Video YouTube channel](#) have been viewed more than two million times (2,030,726 as of Jan. 29, 2018).
- The Alumni Association hosted the PGM Alumni Reception and the Sarasota Alumni and Emeriti Luncheon in Florida, where more than 200 attendees were greeted by University staff and received campus updates.

Events This Week

The annual College of Pharmacy Chili Cook-Off starts at 5 p.m. on Wednesday inside the West Campus Community Center. Faculty and RSOs are joining forces to raise money for Project HOPE (Health Opportunities for People Everywhere), which provides medical training and health education, as well as conducts humanitarian assistance programs in countries in need. Tickets are on sale in the Hagerman College of Pharmacy Building through Feb. 5 and are \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door. Please come, taste some wonderful chili and support this worthy cause.

Thursday at 6 p.m. the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Center is hosting "Symphony of Destruction? Understanding the Nuclear Standoff on the Korean Peninsula" at the University Center, Room 203. Led by Christian Peterson and William M. Knoblauch of Finlandia University, this timely presentation will focus on the coming of the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea and the mounting tensions between North and South Korea. This event is free and open to anyone interested in learning more about these two countries and their turbulent history.

Athletics

After last night's 88-60 victory over Northwood, the men's basketball team is 22-1 and ranked 2nd and 3rd in national polls. The men will play again at home on Saturday against Saginaw Valley State at 1 p.m. with the women's game at 3 p.m.

The women's team will celebrate National Girls and Women in Sports Day with a special event as part of Saturday's game. All girls aged 7-13 who have an interest in learning more about the inner workings of a collegiate athletic event can apply to take part in a number of positions, including in-game promotions, radio, social media, photography, public address announcer, music DJ, band, sports medicine and coaching. Thank you to Head Coach Kendra Faustin and the Athletics Department for providing this wonderful opportunity for young female athletes and sports enthusiasts.

David L. Eisler, president